

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-23 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 1, 18, and 23 have been amended in order to better clarify the present invention. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Batori et al. (U.S.P. 7,119,805).

Batori et al. discloses a 3D-CAD program which includes the ability to define an attribute arrangement plane. An attribute arrangement plane is associated with attribute information. Attribute information includes distances, angles, hole diameters, and dimensional tolerances. Hence, by making such associations, a user can select a particular attribute arrangement plane and view only the attribute information associated with that plane, thereby reducing clutter on the screen and making the attribute information easily readable (Abstract). Additionally, a user can give a name to the attribute arrangement plane, which is called an attribute name (col. 3, lines 61-62).

In contrast, the present invention is a 3D CAD program which allows a user to define a 3D shape as having a particular attribute group, which in turn is associated with one or more attribute names. An attribute group is a type of part used for transportation of a sheet, and an attribute name is a piece of functional data which impacts how that part operates. Examples of attribute groups and attribute names are given in Fig. 3. This information is entered into the 3D CAD program so that an output file can be generated and sent to a simulator for simulating the device as defined by the 3D shape data (CAD drawing) and their associated attribute groups, which are in turn associated with attribute names. Hence, the present invention and the applied prior art are considerably different.

Independent claims 1, 18, and 23 now recite the limitation of a converter or related step for converting the three-dimensional shape data and data of an attribute group of the part and an attribute name associated with the attribute group of the part to an output format that can be fetched by a simulator, and subsequently outputting the converted data. Batori et al. does not disclose such a feature, nor could it, since it is not concerned with simulating a sheet transport

system. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1 and 3-23 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE

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